

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51
ACTION EUR-25

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P R 122031Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1718

CONFIDENTIAL OTTAWA 2191

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA - J. ALAN BEESLEY.

REF : VIENNA 7480

1. BEESLEY BORN IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AUGUST 17, 1927. GRADUATED IN LAW FROM UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA 1950 AND PRACTICED LAW THROUGH 1956. JOINED EXTERNAL IN 1956 AND HAS SERVED IN TEL AVIV AND GENEVA. IN 1967 HE BECAME HEAD OF EXTAFF LEGAL DIVISION AND SINCE 1971 HAS BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL, BUREAU OF LEGAL AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS. HE IS MARRIED TO MARGARET RUTH STEVENS AND HAS TWO CHILDREN.

2. BEESLEY IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE AND CAN EXERCISE VERY CONSIDERABLE CHARM. ON OTHER HAND, HE IS TOUGH, DETERMINED AND FREQUENTLY ARGUMENTATIVE NEGOTIATOR. WHILE HE IS PROBABLY NOT ANTI-AMERICAN PER SE, HE IS OFTEN PROVOCATIVELY PRO-CANADIAN. AT LAW OF THE SEA AND OTHER NEGOTIATIONS, THE U.S. HAS SEVERAL TIMES BEEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF SOME OF HIS MOST VEHEMENT AND POINTED RHETORIC. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT EMBASSY VIENNA WILL FIND HIM INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING U.S. CONTACTS AND COOPERATIVE IN MOST FIELDS.

SCHMIDT

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